

JIN PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Judgment & Sentencing – Phase 1 & 2
Administrative Office of the Courts

12/03

Project Manager: Wayne Clare

Executive Sponsor: Tom Clarke

Description: The goal of the Judgment and Sentencing (J&S) project is to electronically create, manage and disseminate judgment and sentence forms and information from the Superior court system to multiple criminal justice agencies. After successful implementation, county clerk staff and personnel at several criminal justice agencies will no longer be required to manually update information systems with judgment and sentence data from paper forms.

Technology: MS Word, Java, Websphere, DB2, XML, SOAP.

Current Budget:

	AOC	Grant	Total
Elaboration Phase	\$ 30,219	\$ 182,000	\$ 212,219
Construction Phase	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$
Transition Phase	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 30,219	\$ 182,000	\$ 212,219

Schedule:

Major Milestones or Phases	Start	Completion	Status
Inception Phase	May 2002	February 2003	Completed
Elaboration Phase	February 2003	August 2004	In Progress
Construction Phase	February 2004	December 2004	Not Started
Transition Phase	December 2004	December 2005	Not Started

Status: Schedule, budget and deliverables are on target. An interagency agreement between AOC and OFM will be established to fund construction of the production system in February. Activities in the elaboration phase were extended to August and will overlap some construction activities. This will allow the mock courtrooms to review technical and business assumptions, extension of the functional prototype, and participation of Skamania, Cowlitz and Mason counties in pilot activities. The August extension will allow time for developing interfaces to the prosecutor case management systems at the pilot counties. A wireless initiative is actively being reviewed in Thurston County with network review almost finished. A report from the review will be sent to DIS as well as the project manager. The transition phase was extended one year to accommodate the Federal grant funding cycle necessary for equipment procurement. It's expected that small and medium sized county court systems will be operational in the December 2004 timeframe. The large county court systems will be operational within the December 2005 timeframe. Implementation at the counties will probably continue past December 2005 as the system is assimilated in the different courtrooms.

Accomplishments this period: The database for the Electronic J&S is ready to be ported to the mainframe database so it can be used with multiple users and from a remote location. The algorithms to insert the case numbers needed to be debugged and updated to take into account some changes to the prototype. The algorithm then had to be tested to insure that the data were inserted correctly into the database.

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The database tables also had to be checked to determine how they would be transported to the new environment. The tables have all been analyzed and the scripts for their creation have been checked to determine their validity.

A letter of solicitation was created and sent out to vendors for the updates needed for the prototype. The responses have been received, scored and the successful vendor has been announced.

Issues / Risk:

1. Business case review. All of the major associations have been given a presentation and demonstration of the J&S system. Questions raised by members were addressed during the presentations. Mock courtrooms will be conducted during the next six months to demonstrate the practical application of the system in a courtroom environment. These will occur primarily in Thurston County, but also Skamania, Cowlitz and Mason counties. The project team will continue presentations across the state during system development.

2. Complex business requirements. The current pattern form is not used in a standard way, complicating the development of business requirements and application design. A workshop with county prosecutors has addressed some of the issues. As the business rules are incorporated into the application they will be reviewed by a representative of the Pattern Forms Committee at AOC and users in Thurston County.

3. Biometrics requirement. Current statutes require multiple signatures and defendant fingerprints to be added to the Judgment and Sentencing form during the sentence hearing. Capturing this information in the courtroom electronically requires biometric equipment that significantly raises the project implementation costs. Current plans call for only the judicial officer to sign with their assigned digital signature for judicial orders. The vendor identified to provide the biometric solutions (fingerprint and signatures) has not been available for consultation. Additional vendors are being contacted to help with the biometric requirements, several of which seem well qualified.

4. Official electronic record. This is the first project in Washington State to test the idea of using the electronic document as the official record. Doing so may raise business issues regarding ownership and stewardship of records. A policy statement was drafted by AOC and distributed to several County Clerks. The feedback from their review has been positive.

5. Budget. Estimated additional implementation costs in years two and three are \$1,250,000 for a four-workstation courtroom configuration (\$425,000 for year two and \$825,000 for year three). Current funds support development for year one and pilot sites at Thurston, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Mason Counties. The assumptions upon which these cost estimates are based may change after pilot implementation. Alternatives under consideration include use of laptops and wireless networks. The implementation may take three years to spread equipment procurement costs. In addition to this, site configuration planning and post installation testing of the courtroom networks will incur \$125,000 for statewide services. Implementation costs will be reviewed again in the January / February 2004 timeframe as costs from the pilot counties and a second equipment survey are factored into the estimates.

6. Law table. The current law table is being updated with RCW changes. This includes additional data elements in the SCOMIS portion. However, several data items and possible structure changes are needed to accommodate the sentence calculation matrix. These include severity ratings and inclusion dates for the RCWs. This has been identified as a companion project at AOC and will be addressed by management for prioritization, resources, and staffing.

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Another factor in this issue is that a joint effort is being organized by the JIN Program Office to develop a common law table repository for state agencies that have similar data requirements. The AOC and JIN Program Office will coordinate activities over the next three or four months.

Recommendation: None

Plans for next period: The prototype is being moved to a server environment from a development workstation so it will be available for the mock courtroom hearings. The prototype needs to be working on a server to simulate how the system will work in an actual environment. This will allow the wireless solution to be tested in the same manner it will be used when the system is implemented. An internal mock courtroom review at Thurston County will check the application against some established case data and also validate the WiFi security configuration.

An informal bid for biometric equipment will be published sometime in January or early February. The equipment procured in this fashion will be used to support the mock courtroom hearings.

Prototype work will start this month. The work will include:

- Add a misdemeanor module with about fifteen to twenty screens.
- Add a biometric module to authenticate the judicial officer, scan two fingerprints for offender identification, and capture legal signatures.
- Modify the prototype to accommodate user interface changes that meet the new AOC guidelines and workflow of the courtroom hearing.
- Develop Thurston County prosecutor case management interface. If time and funding permit, develop prosecutor case management interface for Cowlitz, Mason, and Skamania Counties.

The business rules are being catalogued for calculation of the sentencing ranges. Changes in the laws over time are being recorded and placed in the rule repository.

A checklist of activities is being developed to coordinate the mock courtroom schedule and participants.

The database environment is being created on the mainframe for required tables. Data will be inserted for the test cases supplied by Thurston County.